



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Tuesday - October 7, 2003

- ***In the West***, isolated showers are developing in **Arizona** and **New Mexico**, where an approaching storm system is interacting with moisture associated with former **eastern Pacific** Hurricanes Nora and Olaf. Meanwhile, unfavorably dry weather persists in winter grain areas of the **Northwest**, despite an increase in cloudiness.
- ***On the Plains***, warm, dry weather prevails across the majority of the region, promoting summer crop harvesting and winter wheat planting, but maintaining concerns about a lack of moisture for wheat establishment. Soil moisture shortages are most extensive on the **northern and central High Plains**.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, mild, dry weather is promoting corn and soybean maturation and harvesting. From the **Ohio Valley into the lower Great Lakes region**, conditions favor winter wheat planting and emergence.
- ***In the South***, scattered showers are causing minor fieldwork delays from the **central Gulf Coast region into the southern Atlantic States**. Elsewhere, mild, mostly dry weather continues to aid autumn fieldwork operations, including summer crop harvesting and initial winter wheat planting.

Outlook: An active southern jet stream combined with a series of weak disturbances will lead to a continuation of wet weather across the **Southeast**. Some of the moisture will spread northward into the **Mid-Atlantic region** after mid-week. Meanwhile, an influx of tropical moisture will result in scattered showers and thunderstorms across the **southern Plains and Southwest**. Farther north, sharply cooler weather and occasional showers will overspread the **Pacific Northwest and northern Rockies**, while dry, unseasonably warm weather will prevail across the **northern Plains and Corn Belt**. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for October 12-16 calls for above-normal precipitation from the **Ohio Valley into the Northeast** and across the **nation's northern tier**, while drier-than-normal conditions are expected in **California**, the **Great Basin**, the **western Gulf Coast region**, and **central portions of the Rockies and Plains**. Above-normal temperatures are expected in **New England** and from the **Plains westward**, while cooler-than-normal conditions will be limited to **Florida** and the **upper Midwest**.

Contact: Brad Rippey, Agricultural Meteorologist, USDA/OCE/WAOB, Washington, D.C. (202-720-2397)

Web Site: <http://www.usda.gov/oce/waob/jawf/AgWxHighlights/TODAYSWX.PDF>